(iv) Implementation of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining forest lands during the Tenth Five Year Plan . The Scheme is being implemented through two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level.

(e) to (g) On recommendation of the State Governments to pave the way for development projects, the approval for diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes is given under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Statement

Change in dense forest cover in Southern States/UTs as per SFR, 2003 & SFR, 2001

(Area in Km.²)

States/UTs	2001 Assessment	2003 Assessment	Change
Andhra Pradesh	25,827	24,379	-1,448
Karnataka	26,156	22,461	-3,695
Kerala	11,772	9,628	-2144
Tamil Nadu	12,499	12,007	-492
Andaman & Nicobar	6,593	6,284	-309
Lakshadweep	27	12	-15
Pondicherry	35	17	-18

Regional offices to check cruelty against wild animals

†2320. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the regional offices set up for the prevention and monitoring of cruelty against wild animals under Wild Life (Protection) Act and since when these offices are functioning;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) what are the responsibilities of each of these offices;

(c) the action taken by each office for the prevention of cruelty against wild animals during last three years;

(d) the number of officers and staff posted in each office alongwith the details of budgetary provision for each office during last three years; and

(e) the details of the achievements made by the each office during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) There are no Regional Offices set up for the prevention and monitoring of cruelty against wild animals under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. However, there are four Regional Offices located at Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata for dealing with issues related to trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

The main responsibilities of these Regional Offices are as under:

- To function as Assistant Management Authority of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of flora and fauna (CITES).
- To assist and adivse Customs Authorities in the inspection of consignments of flora and fauna as per the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, CITES and Export Import (EXIM) Policy.
- To inform the concerned State/Central agencies about matters of importance concerning wildlife preservation coming to notice, for enforcement of the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act,
- To maintain liasion between the Director (Wildlife Preservation) and the State Chief Wildlife Wardens.

To attend the meetings of the State Board of Wildlife as and when nominated by the Director (Wildlife Preservation).

(c) Does not arise, in the light of the reply to (a) & (b) above.

(d) The number of the officers and staff posted in each Regional Office alongwith the details of budgetary provision for each office during last three years are given at Statement I & II (*See* below).

(e) the details of the achievements made by each office during last three years are given at Statement-III

Statement-I

Details of number of officers and staff posted in Regional Offices

Sl.No.	Regional Office	Sanctioned Strength	Officials in position
1.	Mumbai	10	9
2.	Chennai	7	6
3.	Kolkata	8	8
4.	Delhi	13	11

Statement-II

Details of budgetary provision for Regional Offices during last three years

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl.No.	Regional Office	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Mumbai	31.26	53.68	33.98
2.	Chennai	35.81	39.34	34.45
3.	Kolkata	28.68	47.14	30.48
4.	Delhi	36.29	49.03	38.96

Statement-III

Details of the achievements made by Regional Offices during last three years

Regional Office, Mumbai:

1.	Total consignments checked during last three years	14,160
2.	Violations detected with reference to Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	29
3.	Violations detected with reference to EXIM Policy	67

Regional Office, Chennai:

1.	No. of preventive pre-post shipment inspections under Wildlife (Protection) Act and CITES, conducted on EXIM consignments consisting flora and fauna during the last three years	5819

Regional Office, Kolkata:

1.	No. of inspection done at Airport/Seaport/FPO during the last three years	4927
2.	No. of offence cases detected during the three last years	183
3.	No. of CITES export/import/re-export permits issued during the last three years	102

Regional Office, Delhi

1.	No. of offence cases booked under Customs Act, 1962 during the last three years	63
2.	No. of offence cases booked under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 during the last three years	20

Grant to Rajasthan under NRCP and NLCP

2321. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the genesis and objectives of National River Conservation Programme and National Lake Conservation Programme;

(b) whether any financial assistance has been granted to Rajasthan, under NRCP and NLCP, for rejuvenation/reclamation of certain historically and environmentally important rivers and lakes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) If not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any proposal from Rajasthan, are pending with the Central Government in above context; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's reaction thereto?